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REMOVING THE SPOT WITHOUT LEAVING A RING

A radio talk by Margaret Furry, Bureau of Home Economics, delivered through WRC and 37 other radio stations associated with the National Broadcasting Company, September 4, 1930.

All of us have had the bad luck to get an unsightly spot on a dress we were counting on wearing. Maybe some salad dressing dripped unnoticed at the table, or perhaps a smear of car grease suddenly appeared from some place or other. Anyway there was the spot on an otherwise clean garment. An unwelcome thing it was, too, and we have all wondered, "How shall I get rid of that spot without leaving a ring!" Well, there are ways to get rid of most of these spots and leave them ringless.

Did you ever wonder just why rings form? They are caused by two things. The extra dressing in the material often dissolves in the cleaning fluid and backs up to form a ring. The other cause of rings is the spreading of soil by the fluid. Most silks (especially the less expensive ones) are heavily dressed in the finishing process of manufacture. This gives them a better feel, better draping qualities, and a greater weight. The materials used in this finish -- the waxes, sugar, gums, dextrine, and glue, are apt to cause rings when the cleaning fluid is applied. They are dissolved, carried back to the edge of the damp portion and left there as the fabric dries. Another common cause of rings is that the stain merely spreads and is not removed from the fabric. The grease spot or soil already on the garment may just dry in again as the cleaning fluid evaporates. Often our dresses are slightly soiled even tho' it doesn't show. In that case it is usually necessary to dip the entire dress in naphtha or gasoline to remove a spot satisfactorily.

Whether or not a spot comes out ringless depends also on the weave and color of the material that has been stained. A ring will not show as plainly on rough and figured fabrics, such as rep or flat crepe, as it does on smooth and plain colored materials. For instance, do not hope for great success on a light neutral-colored satin material.

However, you can get rid of a spot successfully from almost any fabric if you apply the cleaning fluid carefully. Most cleaning fluids as choloroform, ether, wood alcohol, gasoline, and carbon tetrachloride are very good. However, choloroform makes rings quickly on some fabrics while carbon tetrachloride is the least likely to form rings. Besides, carbon tetrachloride has the advantage of being noninflamable.

With a clean white blotting paper on top of the stain, apply the cleaning fluid from the wrong side of the material. Use a soft rag and take care not to allow the stained material to become very wet. Always brush lightly from the outside of the spot toward the center and spread the moisture unevenly into the surrounding goods. The secret of the trick is to spread or "feather" out the liquid into the fabric surrounding the treated section until there is no definite edge when the material dries. This prevents the ring. It is always well to hasten the drying by brushing with a dry rag.

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Water spots are removed in a different way. Let the spot dry, then scratch with the finger nail or a stiff brush. If it should be necessary to wash out a stain on a fabric that water spots, it is well to first dampen the goods over and around the stain with gasoline. Then sponge with luke warm water, and when the fabric dries, brush it again with gasoline. Remember to spread and feather the liquid as much as possible to avoid the ring. Still another way to treat spots that must be washed out, even tho' the material water spots, is to first wash the stain, then while the fabric is still wet, brush over it lightly with wood alcohol. Again it is important to spread out the liquid. This mixture of alcohol and water is not so apt to leave a ring as water alone. However, use alcohol sparingly as some colors in fabrics are affected.

So now the next time you try to remove a grease spot from a silk dress remember these things:-

Work on the wrong side of the stained material,
Keep a clean blotting paper under the spot,
Apply the liquid with a soft rag,
Brush lightly from the outside to the center of the spot,
Use cleaning liquid sparingly, and
Be sure to spread or feather the liquid into the material surrounding the stain.